GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:440
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
ANTI MALARIA DRUG
MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chloroquine, the popular drug used to fight malaria has become ineffective due to the malaria parasite developing resistance;

(b) if so, whether the World Health Organisation has recommended artemisinin-based combination therapies;

(c) whether the new therapy kills the malaria parasite fast, allowing the patient to recover rapidly and with few side-effects; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(d): Chloroquine has been used as one of the most important anti-malaria drugs in the country for decades and still the mainstay for treatment of uncomplicated malaria cases.

Studies are carried out in different parts of the country through P.f. monitoring teams of the Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) for identifying Chloroquine resistant areas.

The drug policy under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) envisages use of antimisinin and its derivatives alone in injectable and oral forms for treatment of severe and complicated P. falciparum malaria case as the same are fast acting on P.falciparum and helping patients to recover early with low side effects.

There is no specific recommendation from World Health Organisation in this regard.